

## Inland Empire Landscape Alliance

Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
April, 2007



### Increasing Need for Water Efficiency

- Rapid growth in the Chino Basin communities requires development of new water supplies to meet future water needs
- Imported water supplies are increasing unreliable and rising in cost
- Over 60% of the residential water used within the Chino Basin is for outdoor landscaping
- Opportunity through improved landscaping efficiency to stretch existing water supplies

## Additional Benefits of Landscape Water Conservation

- Augment groundwater recharge program, consistent with:
  - Optimum Basin Management Program and
  - Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Management Plan, Phase I
- Improve stormwater management, consistent with State and Federal requirements:
  - Low impact development enhances on site retention, reduces runoff
  - Improved flood control

## Pending Landscape Model Ordinance requirements

- State Landscaping Task Force (2005) recommendations for new landscape model ordinance
- State Legislation (AB 1881) requiring cities to update their landscape ordinances approved by Governor (2006) – requires revisions to ordinances by 2010 or adoption of DWR-drafted model ordinance
- Cities within Chino Basin participating in MWD “California Friendly” program that meet and in some cases exceed AB 1881 requirements

## Landscaping Challenge

- Water efficient landscapes more difficult than simply replacing a water wasting toilet
  - Choice of plant material
  - Efficiency of irrigation system
  - Homeowner understanding of irrigation schedules and when/how much to water
  - Use of site design to keep water on-site, encourage infiltration
- Landscaping important to the quality of life and appearance of communities
  - Many landscaping ordinances encourage the use of plants that are more suited to humid climates and require more water than native or “California friendly” species

## Chino Basin Opportunity

- Need: For coordinated input on landscaping policies and programs from elected officials representing both cities and water districts
- Proposal: Establish the Inland Empire Landscaping Alliance to provide an opportunity for development of voluntary, creative and coordinated approaches to landscape efficiency policies and programs

## Benefits to All Agencies

- Provide a united voice on landscaping related policies
- Identify information needs that will support all city and agency landscaping efficiency and water development programs
- Access funding opportunities including federal, state and MWD grant programs that will support landscaping efficiency initiatives

*All information, grants and policies identified through the Inland Empire Landscaping Alliance would be available to all cities and water agencies, but would not be mandatory*

## Inland Empire Landscaping Alliance Organization

- Each city and water district would appointed one representative to participate on the Alliance
- Staffing would be provided by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Actions on proposed policies, information and grants would be coordinated through Water Conservation Partnership
- Meetings would be held on a regular schedule to be determined by Alliance members

## Garden in Every School® Program



- Educate elementary school-age children and their families, school staff, and other community members about wise water usage through the establishment of school gardens
- Feature drought tolerant plants and efficient irrigation methods
- The program curriculum is aligned with the California State Education Standards.

## Garden in Every School® Program (continued)

- 2006-2007 Participating Schools:
  - Buena Vista Arts-Integrated School
  - El Rancho Elementary
  - Liberty Elementary
  - Litel Elementary
  - Poplar Elementary
  - Sycamore Elementary
  - Victoria Groves Elementary
- Selection process underway for 2007-2008 schools
- New fall workshops emphasizing water efficiency curriculum
- Newsletter and other information planned for participating schools

The image below is of Ranch View's garden and mural (2005/06 participant in the Garden in Every School® Program)



## Demonstration Gardens in the Inland Empire Region



Chino Basin Water Conservation District

IEUA Headquarters



Maloof Gardens

Western Municipal Water District's  
Landscapes Southern California Style



## Landscape Audits

- 200 existing audits under pilot program (thru September 2007)
- Spring DWR grant proposal submitted with Chino Basin Water Conservation to develop sustainable provision of audit services through the District that will provide
  - water audits for cities
  - water audits for recycled water hook ups
  - information for the public on water efficient irrigation systems

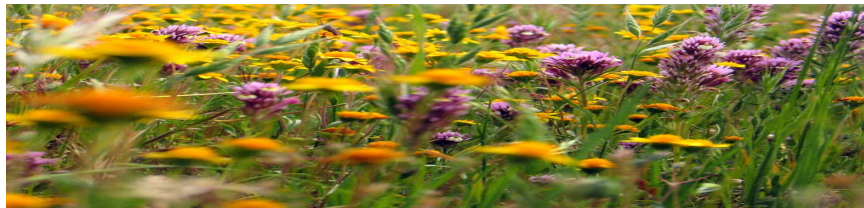
- Grant Solicitation Package scheduled to be released in June, 2007

## Useful Links

## Additional Information

*to be added to the website as it becomes available*

- Inland Empire Plant List
- Top 10 water saving strategies for residents and industrial customers
- Creation of rain-catching gardens



## Informational Workshops

- “California Friendly” Landscape Design workshop on April 24, 2007
  - held at Maloof historical residence and gardens
  - presentation by Tom Larson from Dudek and Associates and consultant with Metropolitan Water District
- Ahwahnee Principles
- Proposed Ordinances
- Irrigation Systems & Audits
- Stormwater Capture



*Maloof Historic Residence & Garden*



## Next Steps

- Continue meeting with city staffs
- Workshops through summer on key topics
- Develop recommendations for model ordinance and general plans
- Reconvene and discuss recommendations on September 13, 2007
- Goal: complete final recommendations by December 2007